

# Art in the Garden

Meditative Moments  
The Tea Ceramics of Richard Milgrim  
and the Paintings of Hiroshi Senju

Spring 2012



## Meditative Moments: The Tea Ceramics of Richard Milgrim and the Paintings of Hiroshi Senju

For centuries, the remarkable healing properties of tea have been recognized in Eastern medicine. A cup of green tea brought alertness and energy to Buddhist monks who needed to stay awake during the long hours of meditation that were part of their spiritual practice. Rich in vitamin C, green tea is recognized today for its healthful qualities.



In Japan, in addition to the medicinal qualities of tea, the custom of tea drinking was elevated to an art form. Developed by Zen Buddhist priests, sophisticated laymen and samurai warriors of the 15th and 16th centuries, the practice of *chado*, the Way of Tea, cultivated a deep commitment to a spiritual path to attaining harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility in daily life. Around the simple act of sharing a bowl of tea with friends, a complex aesthetic and spiritual practice continues to the present day.

The practice of *chado* requires a tranquil setting and meticulous attention to detail. A long history of creating exquisite environments in which to conduct tea gatherings resulted in the production of unparalleled fine crafts among which tea ceramics—including tea bowls, tea jars, water containers and flower vases—played a central role. This exhibition focuses on the highly acclaimed tea ceramics of American potter Richard Milgrim, complemented by the paintings, prints, and etchings of world-renowned Japanese artist Hiroshi Senju.



Richard Milgrim is one of the rare American potters who have reached the heights of recognition in the elite world of tea ceramics in Japan. With kilns in both Japan and the US, his work has been praised for its excellence by Dr. Sen Genshitsu (Hounsai Daisosho), the 15th generation Grand Master of the prestigious Urasenke School of Tea in Kyoto who retired in 2003.

Hiroshi Senju is President of the Kyoto University of Art and Design and an internationally acclaimed artist. Best known for the monumental paintings of waterfalls that grace the walls of Tokyo's Haneda International Airport and other major sites around the world, he divides his time between Tokyo and New York, where his studio is located.

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📷 All Photos: Jonathan Ley

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